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CAMPUS HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT NEWSLETTER

August, 1967

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CAMPUS HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 1967

WHAT IS THE CAMPUS HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT?

The Campus High School Renewal Project is the site for Boston's new and exciting city-wide, campus-type high school and over four hundred units of new low and moderate income housing, first priority for which will go to residents of the Madison Park community.

The total project area of 129 acres is generally bordered on the north by the Inner Belt route (along Sterling and Weston Streets), on the west by the New Haven Railroad, on the south by Roxbury and Bartlett Streets, and on the east by Washington Street and Shawmut Avenue. In the heart of this area is the Madison Park high school and housing site.

WHAT IS IN THE PLANS?

The Boston Redevelopment Authority has worked closely for the past year with the Lower Roxbury Community Council, Urban Planning Aid (the community's legal advisor), and local residents. Their joint "memorandum of understanding" is the basis for the new plans for Madison Park.

Here the 15 million dollar Campus High School will be built to replace the outdated English High School. Its designer will be Marcel Breuer, world renowned architect, who has designed many important projects, including the UNESCO building in Paris and a new campus center for the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.



The Campus High School will be the center for a vital educational program to serve the children of the community and throughout Boston. Fifty-five hundred students from grades 9 to 12 will be taught in a group of separate houses, each with its own administrative staff, library, theater, and recreational facilities. The local residents will have full use of the recreational facilities, including playing fields and tennis courts, when these are not in use by the school. The construction of the Campus High School will be the beginning of a new era in urban education.

The housing program has been reviewed thoroughly by the community and the Authority hopes very soon to advertise for development proposals for the first stage of this housing near Shawmut Avenue and the Inner Belt route. If federal funds are approved as expected, the construction of this housing could begin in 1968.

those families and individuals who will be displaced by the new construction will have first choice in this new housing, as well as in publicly-aided housing, including regular public housing, new elderly apartments, and private apartments under the Boston Housing Authority leasing program. Each family will be given individual attention by the Boston Redevelopment Authority's Relocation Department to help them find a new home.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Anticipated Federal funds for the project will become available with the adoption of the 1967 Housing Act. In the meantime, preliminary work on the area is already well under way. Last April, at the request of the Boston Redevelopment Authority and with the support of the Madison Park community, the Boston City Council granted planning funds to the Authority. With this money, the Boston Redevelopment Authority is now appraising property and making engineering and property surveys so that there may be no unnecessary delays once the project has received its federal approval.

Within the next two months, the Massachusetts Department of Public Works anticipates that they will begin the acquisition of property and the relocation of families and businesses in the Madison Park area for the Inner Belt and Southwest Expressway, with construction of the highways scheduled tentatively for late spring of 1968. A relocation site office will be set up in the area to assist all those who are being displaced by these roads.

WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN MADISON PARK THIS SUMMER?

Plenty.

Fifteen teenage boys who live in the Campus High School Project Area are taking part in a Boston Redevelopment Authority Work and Recreation Program. They are building playgrounds and cleaning out vacant areas, as well as participating in other projects for the improvement of the neighborhood. This summer program is a joint effort of both the BRA and the LRCC, who together have determined the kinds of projects and selected the boys.

This summer the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department has kept open the Cabot Street Bath House. The Department staff also is supervising the playground behind the Whittier Street Health Unit. The Public Works Department has been working closely with the Boston Redevelopment Authority on a regular clean-up campaign over the past four months. Over 300 lots have been cleaned up in the Campus High School Area.

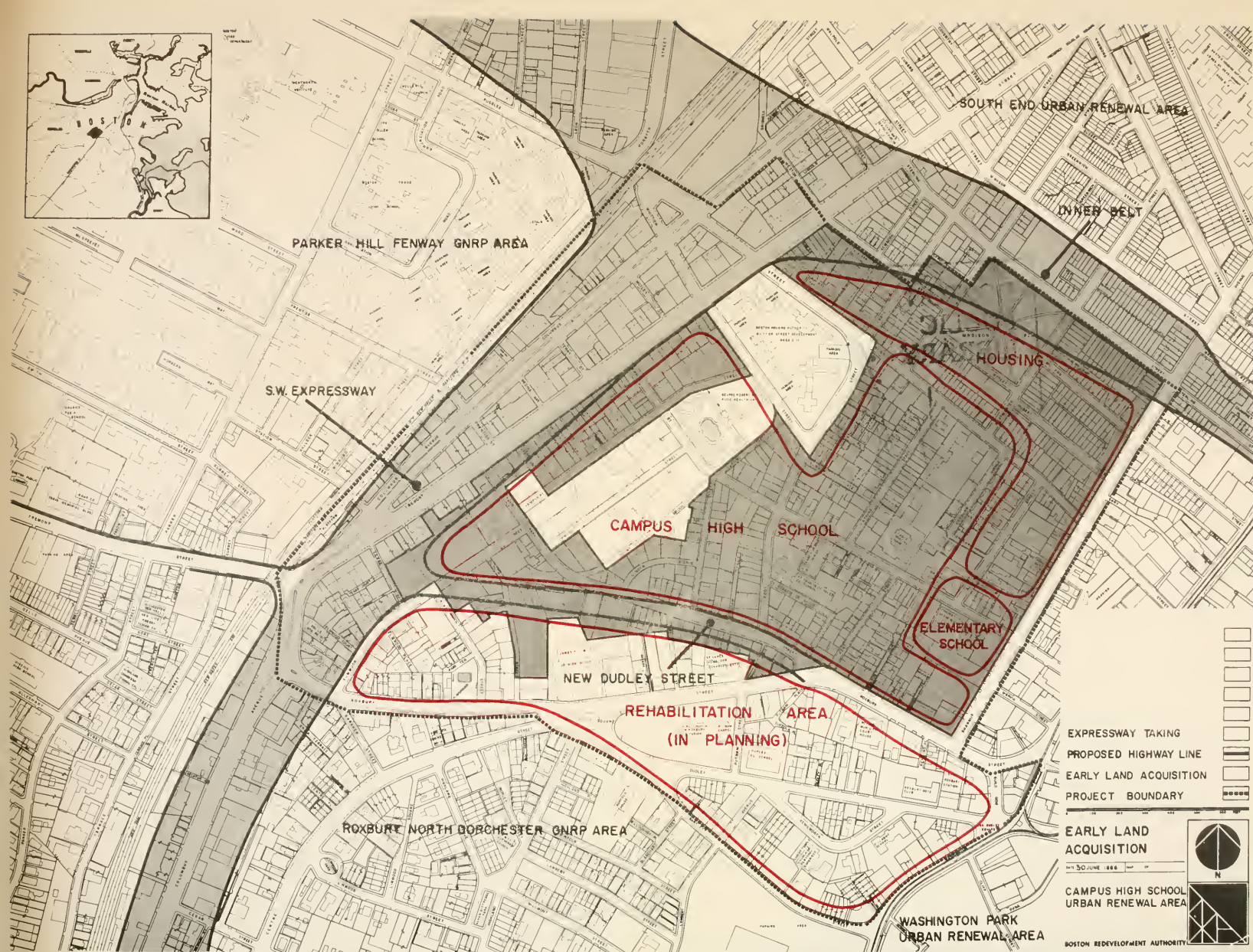
WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

The Redevelopment Authority maintains a small staff that is working on the project. If you would like further information, you may call Bill Baker at 227-2356 or Richard Mertens at 227-2133.

A project site office will be located within the area once Federal funds are available.

Local community organizations that have participated in and followed closely the program can also provide you with information. They include:

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| 1. Madison Park Coordination Center
25 Whittier Street
Phone: 445-1692
(Mrs. Pat Raynor) | 3. Cooper Community Center
719 Shawmut Avenue
Phone: 445-1813 |
| 2. St. John's Information Center
1251 Tremont Street
Phone: 427-5797
(Mrs. Miriam Becton) | 4. Roxbury Associates
85A Roxbury Street
Phone: 445-8888
(Mrs. Andrea Ballard) |




EXPRESSWAY TAKING
PROPOSED HIGHWAY LINE
EARLY LAND ACQUISITION
PROJECT BOUNDARY

EARLY LAND
ACQUISITION

CAMPUS HIGH SCHOOL
URBAN RENEWAL AREA

BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



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BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MAY 1963

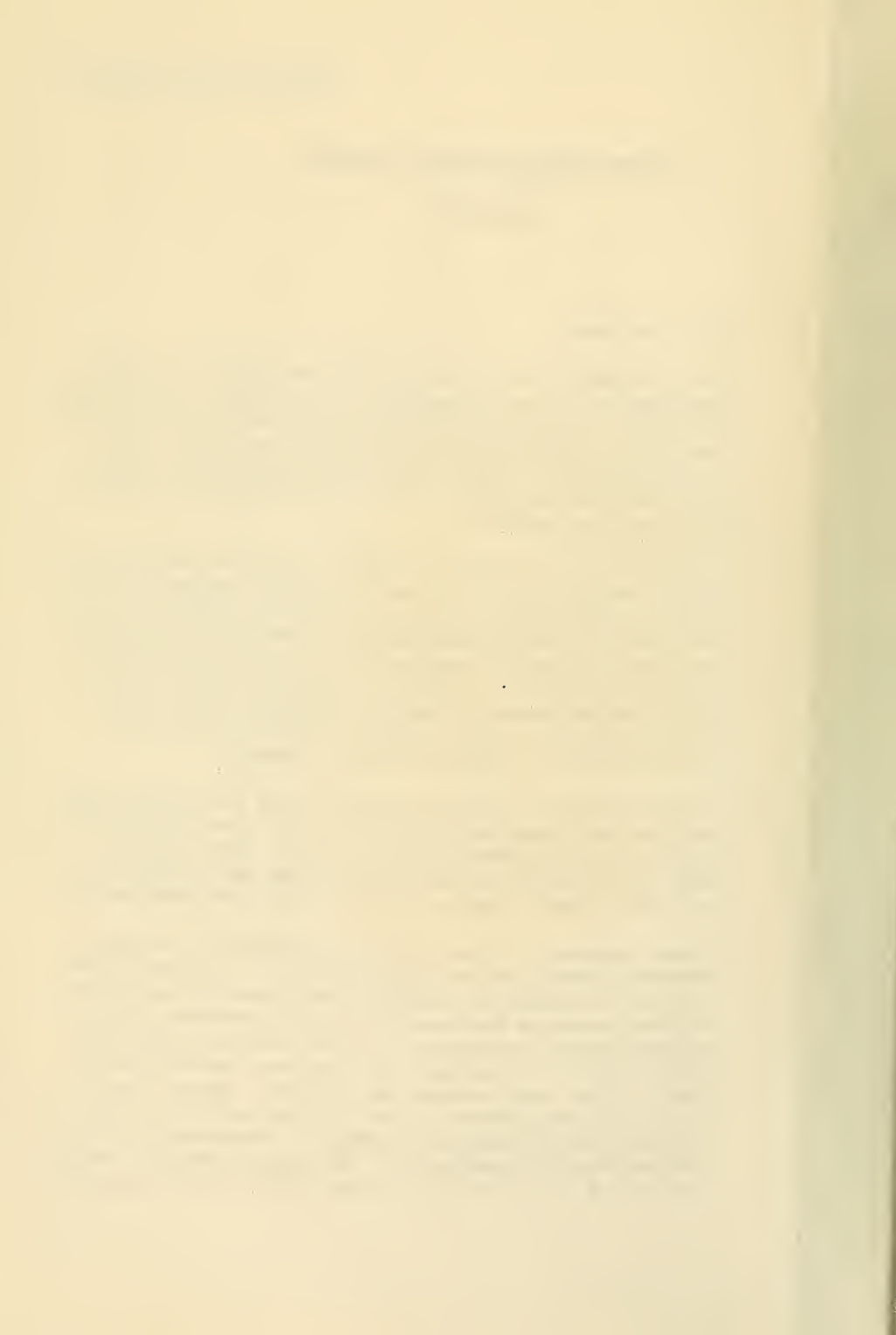
Dear Resident:

Last September an informational Newsletter was distributed to every household in the Campus High School Renewal Project, summarizing the plans for the area, the status of the project, and the activities that were being undertaken. This letter is sent to you to bring you up to date on what has happened during the past few months.

We had hoped that early Federal approval and funding of the Campus High Project would have permitted us to go ahead with the project by this date, but there has been an unfortunate delay in Federal funds for renewal programs. However, this is a high priority project because of the high school and the new low and moderate rental housing proposals, and we are hopeful that we will receive approval as soon as the necessary funds have been released.

In the meantime, property appraisals and engineering surveys are underway in the project area, supported by funds appropriated by the Boston City Council. This will enable us to proceed with the project without delay once Federal approval has been obtained.

There appears to have been some confusion recently regarding the future of the project, as a result of certain misleading newspaper articles. Nevertheless, we feel certain the new City administration, the Redevelopment Authority, and the Public Facilities Department fully intend to carry out the construction of the high school as planned. Marcel Breuer, the architect chosen by the Public Facilities Department to design the school, is currently working on preliminary designs for the school campus. Mr. Breuer is a distinguished architect who has designed

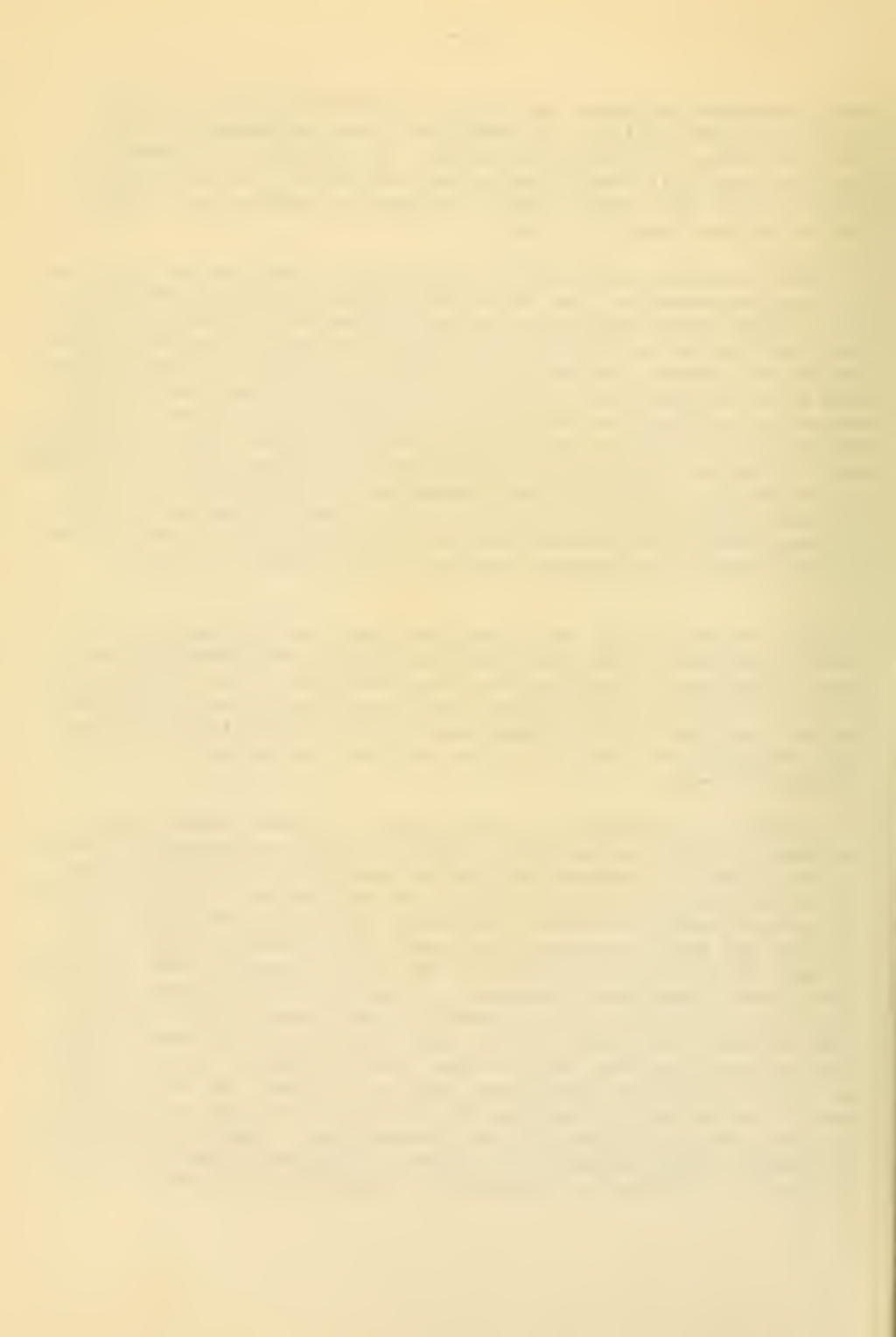


many important projects, including the UNESCO building in Paris and the new HUD building in Washington, and we expect an outstanding design for the high school. It is also anticipated that the Authority will advertise in the near future for development proposals for the first stage of relocation housing near Shawmut Avenue and the Inner Belt route.

In order that the construction of the high school may be completed in a single operation, we are responding to a request from the Public Facilities Department and are proposing to amend the Early Land Application to include the acquisition of the industrial properties on Simmons and Hampshire Streets. Taking of these properties at this time will enable the high school to be constructed according to schedule. No family relocation is involved. We are making every effort to assure that the jobs which these industries provide can be relocated in nearby areas. We have also been assured by the Federal officials that requesting the amendment now will not delay the approval of the project. A public hearing on the proposed additional acquisition is scheduled for May 2 at 2:00 PM at the Boston Redevelopment Authority Board Room, 73 Tremont Street.

Further, we would like to assure you that, notwithstanding the changes in the BRA and City administrations, the Authority has every intention of carrying out the provisions of the "Memorandum of Understanding" signed last year between the Lower Roxbury Community and the City. Fifteen acres of the early land area have been reserved for new housing and will not be encroached upon by the high school.

In regards to relocation, there seems to be some concern among residents of the project area regarding their preferential rights in obtaining an apartment in the new housing. We would like to point out that it is our objective to provide housing for families of low and moderate income, utilizing insofar as available the leasing and rent-supplement programs. The Authority will strive to have this housing provided at the lowest possible rent schedule under these respective programs. Priority for occupancy will, of course, be given to eligible families displaced by this project. This priority will hold even if for some reason you make a decision to move from the project area before approval of the project or before relocation assistance can be provided. We would, however, like to assure everyone that there is no need at this time for any person to move from his present home. When relocation is scheduled, each family will be given individual attention by the Authority's Relocation Department in finding a new home.



We hope that this letter has been informative to you and has helped to answer many of your questions. Again, we want to assure you that we are doing all that we can to obtain prompt approval of the Campus High Project, which we look forward to in the near future. If we can be of further assistance, please contact either Mr. William Baker at 227-2356 or Mr. Richard Mertens at 227-2133.

Sincerely,

CAMPUS HIGH PROJECT STAFF



BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

July, 1968

Dear Resident:

In our effort to keep you up-to-date concerning the Campus High School Renewal Project, we are sending to you another informational newsletter. We plan to continue these newsletters on a regular basis so that you may be fully informed of the progress of the Project and of the area's plans.

The important question at the moment is, of course, when the project will receive its long-awaited approval. The Federal government, after thoroughly reviewing the proposals, has requested that we obtain the concurrence of the Model Cities Board for the Campus High Project, since the Project does lie within the Model Cities area. Accordingly, on June 3 the Redevelopment Authority sent the Campus High applications to the Model Cities Administration for their consideration. We look forward to prompt and favorable action by the Model Cities Board, with the support of the Lower Roxbury community, so that we may proceed with the housing and school proposals without further delay. The Authority has been assured by the Federal government that they will give their approval and release the funds for the Campus High Project within thirty days of Model Cities Board approval.

During the past month, the BRA and the LRCC have held a number of meetings concerning the development of the new housing for Madison Park. The normal development procedures in particular have been discussed in detail, and we look forward to a strong proposal from your community once the site is available. Again, we want to affirm our commitment to consult with the Lower Roxbury Community Corporation on development plans and execution and to give the views expressed by your community the greatest consideration.

CAMPUS
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In regards to the Campus High School itself, the Office of Program Development of the Boston School Department has completed the educational program specifications for the new school and these have been sent to the Boston School Committee and the Model Cities Board for their reviews. In the meantime, the Public Facilities Department is preparing a contract with Marcel Greuer to begin the design plans for the high school complex. The BRA will prepare the planning and design controls which will form an important part of the architect's specifications.

CAMPUS
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LETTER

Of more immediate significance, the Madison Park Summer Project for 1968 began on Monday, June 24. This year thirty neighborhood youths have been recruited as aides to carry out the program under the direction of Lewis Redding, BRA Supervisor; Thomas Gomillion, Field Coordinator; Ronald Randell, Robert Laynor, and Peter Rodriques, Crew Supervisors; and Charlene Smith, Secretary. For the supervisors, two days of orientation were held, emphasizing the creation of rapport between the supervisors and the neighborhood aides without the destruction of that authority which a supervisor must maintain.



BOSTON
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AUTHORITY

This year's project will not place quite as much emphasis on clean-up. Attention will be focussed primarily on construction, emphasizing skill-learning by the neighborhood aides. The locations now under consideration for projects are Cabot Street (landscaping and the construction of shelters), Bartlett Street (construction of a basketball court), Cooper Center (the replacement of the existing facility with a new, more adequate one), Madison Park (construction of a soft-ball field), and King Street Play Area (construction of a leisure space and an arena for outdoor events).

Again, we hope that this newsletter has been informative to you. If we can be of any further assistance, please contact either Mr. William Baker at 227-2356, or Mr. Richard Mertens at 227-2133.

Sincerely,

CAMPUS HIGH PROJECT STAFF

"BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY"

CAMPUS HIGH SCHOOL URBAN RENEWAL AREA

MARCH 1969

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PLANNING GRANT APPROVED FOR CAMPUS HIGH PROJECT

On January 8, Mayor Kevin H. White announced that some \$9 million in Federal funds had been awarded to Boston to finance the proposed Campus High School renewal project in the Madison Park area. This Federal money consists of a \$588,684 survey and planning grant and an \$8,456,200 grant reservation to finance project activities once an Urban Renewal Plan has been approved.

The survey and planning grant will allow the Boston Redevelopment Authority, in cooperation with the residents of the Madison Park area, to prepare an Urban Renewal Plan for the entire 129-acre project. Because preliminary plans already have been approved for the Early Land portion of the project area, much of the effort during the planning period will be directed to the so-called "Rehabilitation Area" in the lower part of the project--that area between the high school site and Bartlett Street-Roxbury Street. It is anticipated that the Plan and the necessary supporting documentation will be completed within a year.

EARLY LAND APPLICATION STILL AWAITING APPROVAL

Contrary to some reports, the Federal grant announced by the Mayor did not release funds to acquire property in the Early Land part of the project and to provide relocation assistance. Our application for these funds is still awaiting approval by the Federal officials, and we are hopeful that this will come shortly. Funds for Early Land Acquisition activities will be made available from the \$8.5 million which the Federal government has reserved for this purpose. This reservation is a big step forward to beginning the Campus High Project.

CAMPUS
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LETTER



BOSTON
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THE HISTORY OF THE

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The history of the American people is a story of the struggle for freedom and justice. It is a story of the people who have fought for the rights of the oppressed and the weak. It is a story of the people who have built a great nation out of a wilderness. It is a story of the people who have made the world a better place.

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EARLY LAND PLANNING ACTIVITIES CONTINUE

In the meantime, planning for the development of the Early Land area has continued over the past few months. As you know, the Early Land area is the site for a "magnet" 5,000 student city-wide high school, designed by Marcel Breuer; 400 units of low- and moderate-income housing to be sponsored by the Lower Roxbury Community Corporation; an elementary school; and local commercial and community facilities.

Numerous meetings and discussions have been held with the LRCC, the Public Facilities Department, the Boston School Department and other interested agencies to further the plans for the housing and the high school complex. Most recently, a series of conferences have been held to discuss both the commercial and social-community service components of the new high school. Inclusion of these elements in the high school itself will ensure that the school can be a real community center.

ADDITIONAL SURVEYS PROGRAMMED

During the next few weeks, a number of surveys are being made in the project area to update existing information and to prepare the basis for the area's planning. These surveys will include:

1. Land use and building conditions--to update existing data for the entire project area and especially for the rehabilitation area.
2. Social Survey--to update a survey, first done in 1966, of families and persons to be relocated in the Early Land Acquisition Area. All families living in the Early Land Acquisition area will be contacted and interviewed by the BRA Relocation Office.
3. Rehabilitation Survey--to determine the feasibility of rehabilitating housing and other structures in the rehabilitation section of the project. Letters already have been sent to property owners in this area informing them of the survey and requesting their cooperation.

A second newsletter will follow shortly and will include news of the project staff and site office.

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Campus High School Project

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